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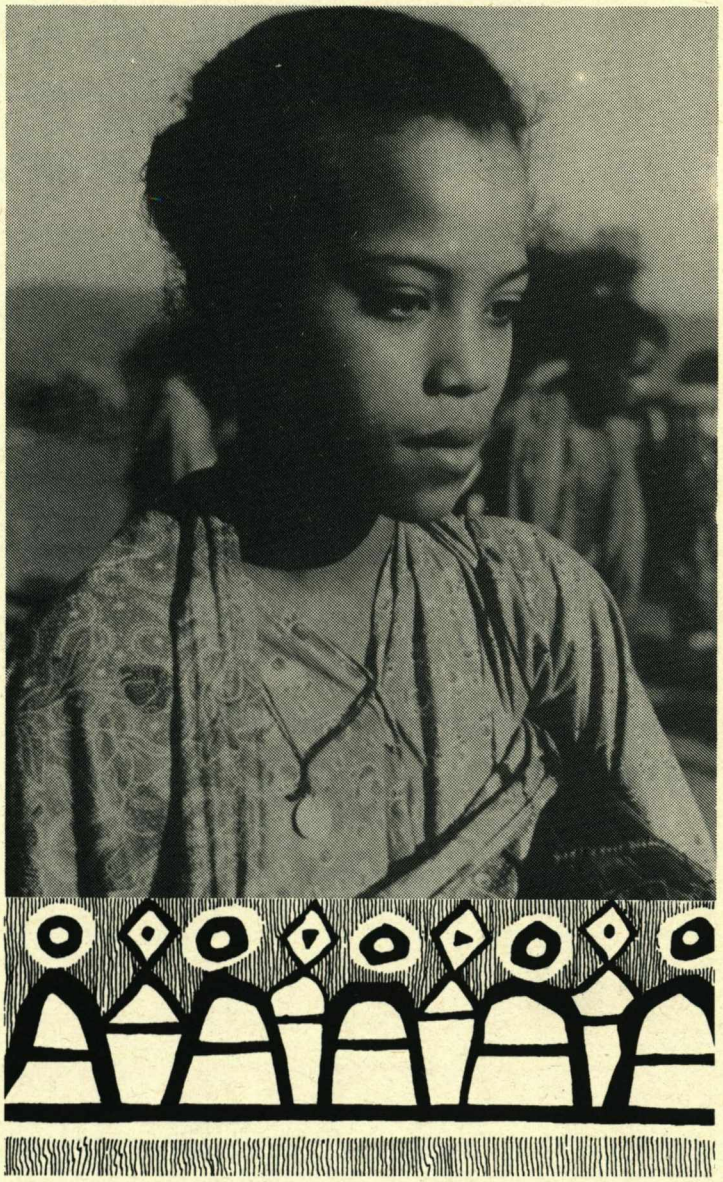
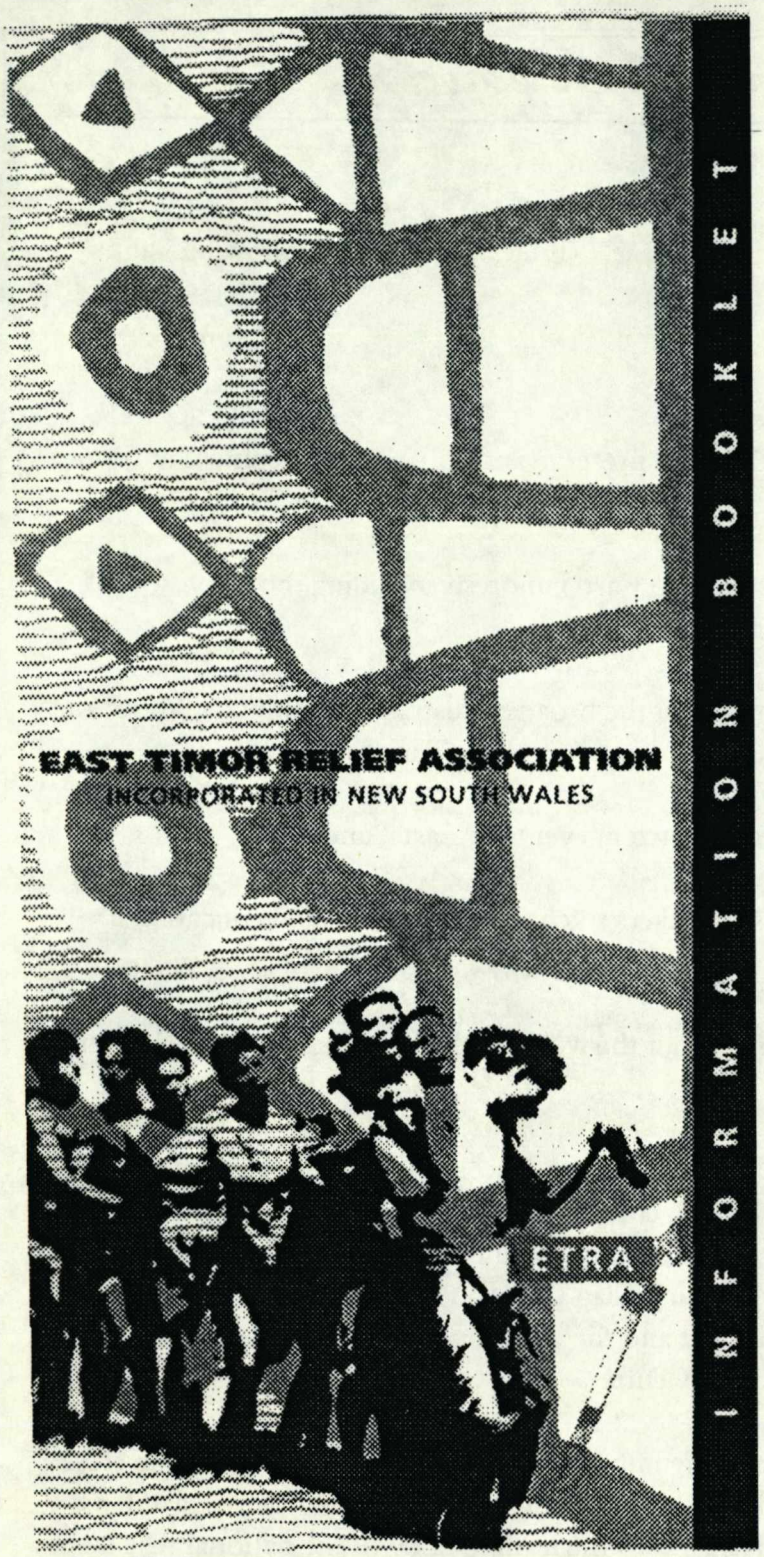
EAST TIMOR RELIEF ASSOCIATION INC.

Annual Report

1997





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Annual Report

Aims & Objectives

The East Timor Relief Association Inc. (ETRA) has the following aims and objectives:

To

1. assist the people of East Timor to preserve and enhance their cultural and social conditions;

   provide humanitarian assistance to East Timorese, including the provision of medicines, clothing and food.

2. carry out education work amongst the broader Australian community about the human rights, social and cultural situation in East Timor including:

   - publishing information about current events in East Timor

   - providing East Timorese speakers to charitable, cultural and educational organisations

   - publishing regular reports about the work of the East Timor Relief Association.

3. liaise in the broadest possible way, on East Timor issues, with government - international and Australian - aid, church, human rights and United Nations agencies including amongst others Amnesty International, The International Committee of the Red Cross, Australian Catholic Relief, Community Aid Abroad/Freedom From Hunger and the Australian Third World Health Group and East Timor Human Rights Centre

4. ETRA will also work to promote human rights in East Timor and pursue effec tive ways to defend the right to self-determination of the people of East Timor. In this context, ETRA will liaise with the leading body of the national resistance - the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM) - on a non partisan and super-partisan basis.

   In its work towards self-determination ETRA will coordinate with regional bodies which may be set up to defend similar aims and objectives.

   The East Timor Relief Association assists the people of East Timor wherever the need exists and on an equal basis.

Aims & Objectives

Inside East Timor this policy is applied with the aid of, and through the

Catholic Church and other means which assure accountability. This assistance includes the provision of medicines, clothing, food and other basic necessities of life.

ETRA also provides support for the growing number of Timorese political prisoners and their families.

ETRA supports cultural, sporting and social organisations consistent with the above statement of objectives and funds projects which assists East Timor to preserve its unique culture and history.

ETRA's National and Branch offices are staffed by volunteers who not only manage individual projects but are also an important resource for the East Timorese community in Australia.

ETRA's administration expenses are kept to a minimum and yearly income and expenditure reports are included in the Annual Report.

Content

A word from the President	1
Overview of 1997 by the Secretary	2
Campaigns '97	5
Korea campaign	8
NFIP and Ceu Brites	9
Preparing for self-Government	10
Artists for East Timor: Dunedin/NZ	11
Culture	13
Youth project: Hananu Kore A'an	14
Film night	15
ETRA Annual Dinner	15
Projects in East Timor	16

Acknowledgment

ETRA wish to thank the following people for their support and encouragement:

Jose Ramos-Horta, Bishop Hilton Deakin, Peter Carney, Pierre Favier and Roccio, Jega Ponnambalam, Dr. Keith Suter , Dr Martin Wesley-Smith and Bernard Collaery.

As for organisations, we wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation received from a number of groups in 1997. In Portugal, a special thanks to CDPM (Comissão para os Direitos do Povo Maubere), Professor Barbedo Magalhães and RENETIL. In Australia, the support of CPSU - Community and Public Sector Union - continued to be crucial for ETRA to implement projects for East Timor. In Aotearoa/NZ, many thanks to CORSO for their support.

If the work of the volunteers have strengthened the capacity of the organisation to diversify its operations - from humanitarian work to political lobby and campaigns, from information to the general Australian community to information for the Timorese community, from interacting with the solidarity movement in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand to actively promoting the regionalisation of East Timor in the Asia-Pacific region and from public lectures to university and schools campaign - ETRA would not do justice without acknowledging the role of all the members.

There were also the key solidarity groups such as CIET/SA (Campaign for an Independent East Timor in South Australia), CISET (Christians in Solidarity with East Timor) and Mary MacKillop Institute of East Timorese Studies. We wish to also express our gratitude to Geoffrey Edwards & Co., specially Greg Hart, Peter Werdheim, Martin Carrick and John Hendry. They have been in the forefront in providing us with legal advice and relevant documentation.

To you all. Thank you!

A Word from the President... Abel Guterres

Dear Member

1997 was a year of diverse and busy activity. You might have noticed that ETRA's finance for this year appears to be lower then last in 1996. There are two main reasons for that. One is the fact that ETRA has purchased the small office space in Parramatta which is being transformed into a library and documentation centre. Although relatively small, there is enough space to set up a properly organised documentation centre. This project is tentatively referred to as DIRECT. This stands for 'Documentation, Information and resource Centre Timor Lorosae". You will see details of this project in "Agenda '98".

Another reason is the fact that ETRA's most active members have been out in the international and regional arena promoting the question of human rights and self-determination for East Timor. This is why finances received from overseas for these trips are registered as 'income' but are simultaneously withdrawn for the same reasons. It is through these activities that ETRA becomes more visible and carries more credibility in terms of its commitment to the development of East Timor toward self-determination and full respect of human rights in the country.

Late last year, a major activity undertaken was the amendment of ETRA's constitution which gave the necessary powers to the committee to liaise with relevant institutions to improve the future operations of the organisation. As a result, the National Committee was vested with the relevant powers to purchase the office space on behalf of the organisation as a whole. Of course this exercise was made possible due to the financial commitment of some active members. The National Committee will undertake to pursue all avenues available to implement the library project with due success. Those of you who are residents of NSW and others - like us in Victoria and another states - will certainly visit DIRECT to be more directly in touch about the latest developments on East Timor campaign abroad and the situation inside the territory. If you are one of those who 'vegetate' in front of internet, most likely you have come across ETRA's website. Thanks to a couple of very committed and knowledgeable friends, the website has been designed and successfully become a very good interactive resource for many people around the world. The feedback certainly testifies to this success. Much more is to be done, but I am sure you will agree with me that the organisation is driving in the right line.

One of ETRA's central focuses is projects in East Timor. The Timor Aid for Children and the support for the street kids will continue to be of paramount importance. Although some important work has been done, one has to agree that the difficult task of supporting development projects in East Timor requires constant innovation and creativity. In 1998, ETRA should encourage more people to visit East Timor. Cooperation with other groups will also be encouraged. These visits will provide objective assessment of the conditions on the ground and also help to improve the channels of support for East Timor. Hence, for 1998 we have approved the motto "To Sustain, Develop and Increase Efficiency for 1998 and Beyond". We hope you can contribute to make this happen.

See you in 1998...

Overview of 1997...

In 1997 the work plan proposed in "Agenda'97" was accomplished. The cards campaign, the tour of Nobel Peace Prize in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand, publications, the community initiative to honour the Nobel Peace Prize, the need to galvanise coordination between Timorese and solidarity groups and many other initiatives were implemented as planned.

One major problem faced by the organisation was membership stagnation. Although there was advice in the previous year to increase the membership base as a means to respond to the increasingly demand on administrative budget, this did not happen. One reason was the intensity of activities. The Nobel Peace Prize activities, including media, community events and production of material consumed most of the available time of volunteers. Competition between groups in each state was also part of the problem.

The regional campaign was intensified. ETRA members went to Suva, Fiji, Aotearoa/New Zealand and various parts of Australia. Participation in the VII (and last) Oporto University Timor Symposium was also a major event for ETRA.

Another event was the All Inclusive Intra-Timorese Dialogue where ETRA was directly involved.

ETRA produced information and coordinated dissemination of information for activists via internet and Matebian News.

Ines Almeida
Secretary

In 1996, with the demise of ALP in the March election. The political landscape in Australia changed radically, the ultra-conservative coalition parties took power with a huge majority in the parliament. For East Timor, nothing much has changed, because both ALP and Liberal Coalition have the same position in relation to the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. However, on the domestic front, the issue of the Timorese refugees is expected to deteriorate because the Liberal Coalition government is more insensitive to the question of Timorese refugees. It clings firmly to the argument that the Timorese are 'Portuguese citizens' as a legal mechanism to avoid providing refugee status to the Timorese asylum seekers.

In the immediate region, the successful legal challenge of APCET II organisers proved that NGOs in ASEAN countries can still succeed in challenging the hooligans who are constantly indoctrinated by the governments to stand against the advancement of human rights.

In a broader international arena, the election of Mr Kofi Annan to the position of Secretary-General of UN enhanced the profile of East Timor. Since he was elected, he has made about four public statements during several of his media conferences saying that East Timor is a priority for his office. Practical steps undertaken so far testify his sincerity.

Hence, one can say that 1997 has seen new elements conducive to a solution for East Timor in the few years ahead. Some statements made by a number of Timorese leaders and also from the Portuguese government itself supports this

Overview of 1997

Ines Almeida, Secretary

view.

For an NGO like ETRA , and all those Timorese NGOs working in East Timor at present, it appears that a transitional political solution will be conducive to better their working environment. As for projects in East Timor and abroad, this report will outline the relevant details. "Agenda '98" has also been prepared. It is a draft only at this stage, but after consultation and feedback, a final version will be made available. The previous working program (Agenda '97) is included in this report as an attachment.

If you have an opinion about how to improve the organisation *modus operandi* or some specific projects which you feel would be of advantage for East Timor, please contact the executive director to discuss viability and time frame. If you only wish to obtain more information, your queries will be welcome. For 1998, more volunteers are needed because a number of key information-based projects are expected to be implemented. Amongst them, the website and library/documentation centre - not to mention maintaining *Matebian News* are most demanding.

Following the successful experience of 1996, ETRA will look into the possibility of producing more documentation. One option is to publish papers delivered by Jose Ramos-Horta which are relevant to human rights education and the politics of regionalisation of East Timor. Two papers are proposed. One is the paper *"Self-determination for East Timor: implications for the region"* and another is *"the APEC conglomerates and human rights and rule of law: Principles Vs Real Politik"*.

As reported in the Annual Report of 1996, all the publications produced were successfully distributed. The income generated from this distribution helped to offset the costs incurred due to the work of production and dissemination of information. Donations received from these publications also helped with the administrative budget.

It was noted in the 1996 report and again this year, that the membership drive has not been pursued adequately. One argument is that because there is no combined strategy to respond to the existing barriers such as competition with other organisations and the huge island continent of Australia which literally makes one feel that the organisation is operating within an area of the entire western Europe. There is merit in this argument. ETRA must look into a package of actions as the right vehicle for membership drive. Even if it means only a 10% (ten per cent) increase in membership level, it will be taken as a success. One suggestion is to (i) update the leaflet (the National Committee as approved that in the previous year) and (ii) publish *"ETRA News"* as a vehicle to make the members and their friends feel closer to the developments pertaining to their organisation rather then depending only on a monthly Matebian News and/or Annual Report. This will reach out to those members and friends who are supporters of East Timor but not necessarily active in one way or another; encourage more involvement of volunteers in activities, campaign other then office work and news

A new and encouraging approach to acknowledge the work of people for East Timor will be implemented in 1998. This encompasses two key awards. One is the "Michele Turner Writing Award', another is the 'Denis Freney Solidarity Activist Award'. The details of these awards have been prepared in 1997 and launched at the

Overview of 1997...

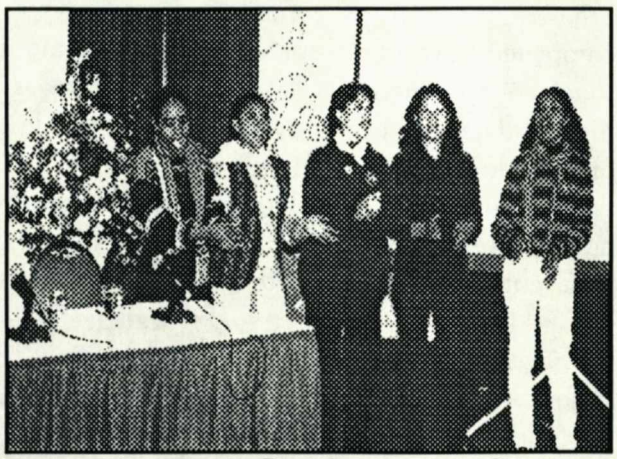
Ines Almeida, Secretary

by Jose Ramos-Horta.

In the Asia-Pacific region, ETRA will pursue active involvement with APCET work. Hence, APCET III will be a focus, although it is expected to be held only during the first half of 1998.

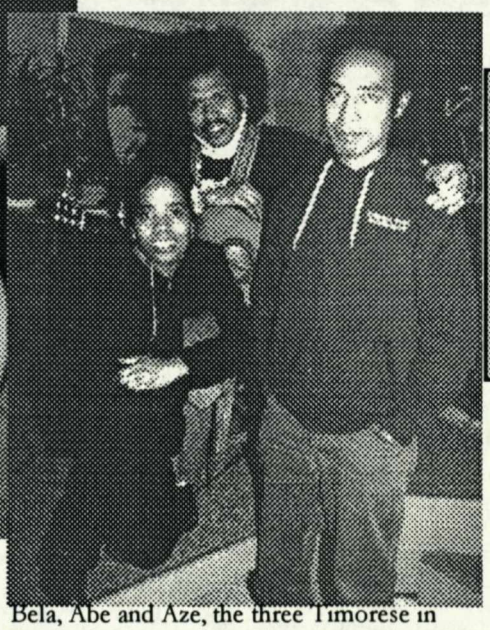
Inside East Timor, ETRA will certainly look into all the possibilities of acquisition of funds for development work in East Timor. Unfortunately, some projects received by ETRA all of them important projects - have not been met with appropriate funding. This is a negative note. One reason for this is that their focus is long term and the funding level required is high. The news that the European Union has decided to provide funding for East Timor via direct assistance (not passing via Indonesia) was the best news an NGO could hear. ETRA responded by providing three projects received from East Timor to the European Commission (EC), but with no reply after almost one year. Even though the projects were handed over to the EC by none other then Jose Ramos-Horta (via the Department of Foreign Affairs of Portugal), not even a single acknowledgment has been received.

Although the limited resources of ETRA makes it difficult to physically send people to Europe like other NGOs do, ETRA must realise that this is a pre-condition to overcome the limitations due to the way certain international fora operate. More details of the working program for 1998 can be found in "Agenda '98".



Above: Bela, Doli, Ceu, Ines and Solana

"To Resist is the Win" - motto of 'Team Timor'



Bela, Abe and Aze, the three Timorese in Canada. They were granted refugee status by the Canadian Government

November - December 1997, "Team Timor" in Canada

Campaigns '97

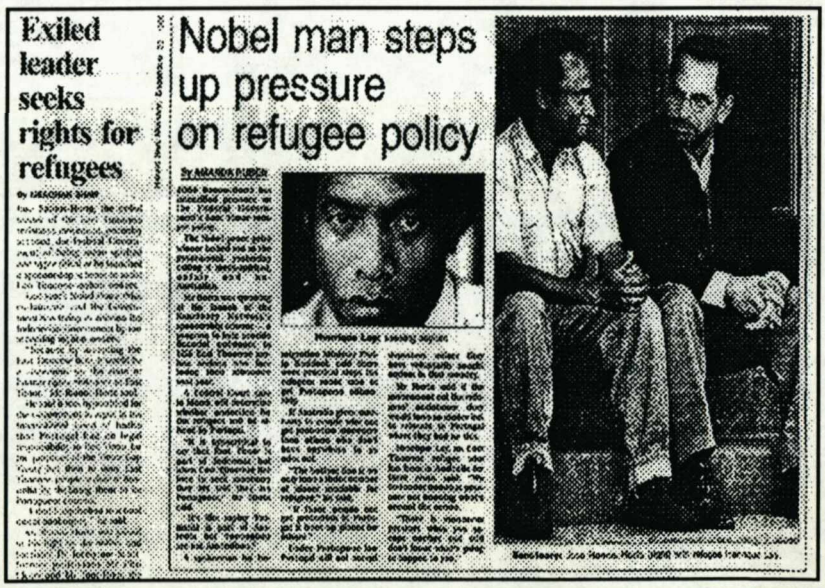
In his Nobel Peace Prize Australia tour, Ramos Horta also visited the Aboriginal tent-embassy in Canberra to express the solidarity with the struggle of the Australian aborigines for justice and peace

1997 started with a major community event. Together with many Timorese community organisations, ETRA coordinated the Nobel Peace Prize gathering in Liverpool, Sydney. The event was supported by the Timorese musical group 'Timoroan/Reggae Temptation" and with the presence of more then 800 (eight hundred) Timorese and non-Timorese participants. With a strong cultural program, the event was filmed and successfully completed. It was a major kick off event for the Timorese campaign in NSW. ETRA was acting as the coordinating body, providing resources and organisational infrastructure. It was one of the rarest events where all the groups that lent their names were actively promoting the event in one way or another.

This event was followed by a major campaign in Australia by the Nobel Peace Prize co-Laureate, Jose Ramos Horta. This campaign was under the organisation and coordination of ETRA. It was aimed at galvanising the necessary support for East Timor after the Nobel Peace Prize. The program included Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Canberra and - later on - in Sydney.

There was an intensive campaign for East Timor. The range of activities included support for refugees, solidarity and public talks and lectures. There are currently up to 1 400 (one thousand four hundred) refugees in Australia. Most of them are currently living in Melbourne and Sydney, with smaller groups in Darwin, Perth, Brisbane and Canberra.

In Sydney, Melbourne and Darwin there are organised refugee support committees. These groups liaise with lawyers, community workers, and the community to maintain a well informed environment which can minimise misinformation. The situation in Australia still requires more involvement of Timorese in the process of supporting the community. There is a feeling that gradually less Timorese are actively supporting the campaign for the rights of refugees in Australia, so there must be a focus on this in 1998. The planned 'Cultural Festival' of Timorese community in NSW certainly will galvanise more interaction between all the active groups in NSW. This move was inspired by the previous experience in Melbourne where ETRA was also actively involved. The event in



Exiled leader seeks rights for refugees

Nobel man steps up pressure on refugee policy

Melbourne received the support of six popular groups including the very popular youth band "Spider Bites". The concert was followed by 400 (four hundred) people camping outside the state office of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. It is hoped that the Sydney experience also enjoys the support of many groups.

In April this year, the Federal Court made a decision on the question of Kim Koe Jong, a Timorese refugee currently waiting for a decision on his application for refugee status. The decision was a test case for all the 1400 asylum seekers. Although it was not a clear victory for them, the refugees could feel comfortable with the decision which did not recognise that the issue of 'Portuguese citizenship' was 'effective' in the case of Kim Koe Jong.

MATEBIAN NEWS

Federal Court decision raises hope for asylum seekers

The sanctuary network has been a successful campaign in Australia. It has not only highlighted the rights of the refugees from East Timor but also the fundamental rights to self-determination and the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia. In 1997, the campaign was launched by the co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize Jose Ramos-Horta.

There is a positive move in Sydney. Since late

Solidarity and Timorese meeting

1997, an initiative was implemented in Sydney to mobilise and improve cooperation between the Timorese and solidarity groups and to enhance support for the refugees. One expected outcome is to provide a better coordinated approach to the sanctuary movement headed by CISET. This meeting has produced a reasonable outcome thanks to the hard work of the Josephite sisters and CISET. One positive outcome of this initiative is the above-mentioned 'Cultural Festival" of the Timorese community in NSW.

Pert/WA and ETRA

The Timorese support group 'Friends of East Timor/WA" has been a very active group promoting solidarity for East Timor in Perth/WA. In spite of difficulties caused by lack of perspective form the Timorese groups based in WA, FOET has been consistent in its endeavours to advance the cause of solidarity with East Timor. Within this context, FOET invited ETRA's Executive Director, Agio Pereira to campaign in Perth. One issue highlighted in this campaign was the asylum seekers, another was the need to provide humanitarian assistance for the Timorese, specially the prisoners.

The visit was a success. Another positive aspect of this visit was the move of the WA Trade Unions Group for East Timor, under the leadership of the tireless John Gandini to undertake specific actions in support of the prisoners in Semarang. More needs to be done in this field, but at least some concrete actions were generated by the WA Trade Unions Group for East Timor. For details, please read Matebian News, issue no.08, October 1997, page 6.

MATEBIAN NEWS

All-inclusive Intra Timorese Dialogue: 3rd meeting in Krumbach, Austria

All-Inclusive Timorese Dialogue

A major event where ETRA has a degree of involvement was the third All-inclusive Intra Timorese Dialogue (AIITD). As mentioned in the Annual Report 1996, the participation of Ines Almeida, the Secretary of ETRA, has been - like all other participants - on a 'personal capacity'. However, because this event is of major importance for the Timorese, ETRA has processed detailed information, prior to, during and after the event for the Timorese community and solidarity in general.

Adelaide - CIET (Campaign for an Independent East Timor)

CIET/SA has been one of the most well organised solidarity group in Australia. Formed since 1975, this group has campaigned for East Timor on many fronts. It has been supportive of ETRA in terms of humanitarian and political programs. Although in Adelaide there are only 70 (seventy) Timorese residents, CIET has worked with those who are willing to go public and campaign against the Indonesian occupation. One regular feature of CIET is to invite Timorese activists from other states to go to Adelaide to speak in major events. In 1997, Ines Almeida was a guest speaker in the Annual Dinner of CIET. Prior to that, Abel Guterres also spoke in a CIET function. CIET is also an Associate Member of ETRA.

Protest dates

Apart from the usual historical dates such as the invasion date of 7th of December, the massacre date of November 12, ETRA actively supported a number of actions including protesting the death of commander Dai Tula in Canberra which included a mass, public protest in front of the Indonesian embassy and organising transport for the Timorese in need of transport to reach Canberra.

Media

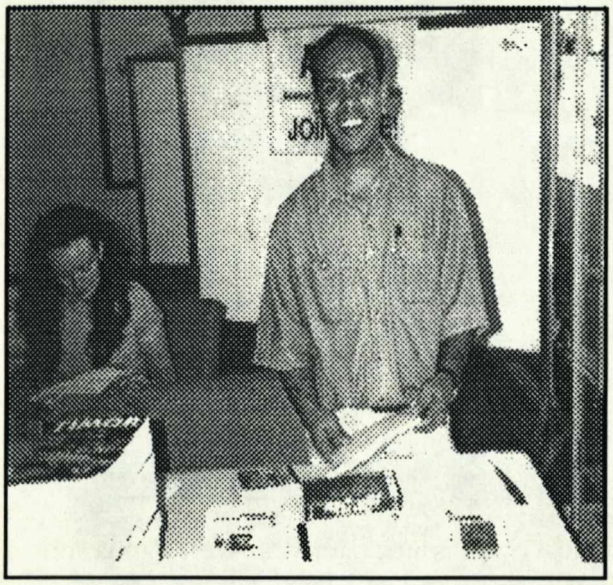
Media work in 1997 was also intensive. ETRA not only lobbied for Jose Ramos-Horta's media appearance but also provided interviews and organised sessions for the community. One major television documentary on East Timor which appeared in 'Foreign Correspondent', was produced with the assistance (eg. networking and translation work) of ETRA. The documentary was a strong statement about the determination and organisation of the Timorese resistance. It successfully portrayed the facts about the developments in East Timor.

Of course, one must stress that it was the professionalism and neutrality of the journalists that safeguarded this success. The camera woman was later awarded the prize of best documentary filed in 1997.

Ceu Brites in Melbourne, sharng a happy moment with the key staff of East Timor Human Rights Centre. (L-R) Jacinto Santos, Ceu Brites, Elisabeth Exposto and Maria Brett

Jose Ramos-Horta Tour

Another big contribution ETRA provided for the Timorese community was the tour of Jose Ramos-Horta. As mentioned above, the tour was coordinated by the organisation and also the direct involvement of Ceu Brites and Ines Almeida. In Melbourne, Quentiliano Mok also helped out with the sale of material. Ceu Brites was in charge of community liaison work and Ines Almeida was in charge of media work. However, both operated in close coordination



Quentiliano Mok helped out with sales of material

and mutual support to make the tedious job of dealing with media, solidarity and community in general a much more pleasant task.

The presence of ETRA was also noted in the radio and television programs in 1997. Community radio, in particular, was a major focus. This was due to the commitment of ETRA to provide as much information as possible to the community so that an objective assessment can be made as to on-going developments. Media work beyond Australia was also accomplished due to the number of activities ETRA has undertaken in the countries of Asia-Pacific. This can be appreciated in the section related to campaigns in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asia-Pacific region: to highlight the issues of self-determination and human rights in East Timor, working towards enhancing the regionalisation process of East Timor has been one of the main focuses of ETRA's work. Because of the magnitude of the difficulties encountered, ETRA has been working in close coordination with IID (Initiatives for International Dialogue) which is acting as the secretariat for APCET (Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor). Other organisations which ETRA liaise with from time to time are ACFOD (Asian-Forum for Human Rights and development) based in Bangkok, Thailand, STTM (Solidaritas Timor Timur) Malaysia, Korean Catholic Human Rights Committee, '*suaram*' and other groups and active individuals.

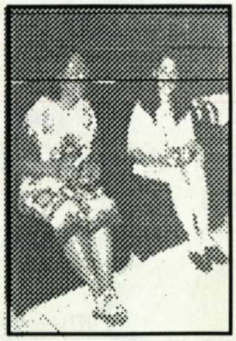
Korea campaign: Ines Almeida campaigned in Seoul, Korea, for East Timor. She attended the Women's Symposium in Seoul and addressed the gathering on the situation of the Timorese women and the latest developments on the question of East Timor in the international arena.

For the solidarity, the theme of Ines Almeida's participation was "The suffering of the people of East Timor under Indonesian occupation and the activities developed by the Timorese to respond to this occupation". For the women's symposium, Ines Almeda gave her contribution to the question of "The Women's Movement and Peace in the 21st Century - Women, Peace and Reconciliation". This was the theme of the symposium itself. The presentation dealt specifically with the angle of "Timorese Women: Visibility Against All Odds". Ines Almeida's contribution to the symposium was published in the book of the symposium which is distributed worldwide.

Suva, Fiji: A Brief report frmo Ceu Brites

Aspects of NFIP/Pacific resource Centre...

Discussing key issues of concern



Ceu Brites and Joy Balazo of Uniting Church (Sydney) Human rights office

Lopeti Senituli addressing the meeting. He is the Secretary of NFIP

Ceu Brites attended the NFIP (Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific). This meeting was in Rarotonga/Cook Islands and it was the 21st meeting of the Executive Board of NFIP. Another organisation associated with that meeting was PIANGO which is an umbrella organisation for the Pacific NGOs. The host organisation was CIANGO (Pacific Resources Concern Centre).

Initially the meeting was scheduled to coincide with the South Pacific (Governments) Forum so that the NGOs in the region could lobby and campaign on a number of issues including the environment. However, due to the pressure of the Cook Islands, the NGOs Forum was postponed for one week.

In this 21st meeting, a financial report and activity reports were presented and approved. Ceu Brites was also in the media talking about the issue of East Timor, specially the ongoing atrocities committed by the Indonesian government against the people of East Timor. The strategy was to provide an opportunity for delegates to have their issues highlighted in the media. Hawai, West Papua and Bougainville were amongst the main issues highlighted.

One main issue discussed was climate change and, particularly, the stand of the government of Australia regarding green house gas emissions. Another issue was the fact that the HOG (Heads of Government) meeting did not even discuss human rights issues, namely in West Papua and East Timor.

For the NGOs present, however, the issues of East Timor, West Papua, Hawaii, and Australian Aborigines were in the forefront. East Timor did attract interest from the Cook Islanders.

Since then, Ceu Brites has been campaigning in a number of ways, including dissemination of information, attending meetings to discuss the new globalisation strategies of MIA (Multilateral Investment Agreement) and APEC, and how these new developments affect the issue of indigenous peoples and self-determination of East Timor and West Papua.

Asia-Pacific and development Centre

As part of these priorities, Ceu Brites attended the APDC (Asia and Pacific Development Centre) consultation on women and refugees issues. Working closely with Ines Almeida, they

produced a report and presented it to this consultation. Another Timorese who took part in this consultation was Alice Casimiro, a play write currently based in Darwin, in the Northern Territory of Australia. The final report is available at ETRA's office. Please see also more photos of Korean East Timor Solidarity on p.11.

Agio Pereira in Adelaide and Perth

On the way to Perth/WA, Agio Pereira stopped in Adelaide. The agenda was to discuss with CIET and relevant Timorese community members the programs in 1998. One of the key issues discussed was the ideas of policy development for East Timor.

Preparing for self-Government

As it was reported in the Annual Report 1996 and previously intensely discussed amongst some key members and ETRA's Board, the idea is focussed on democratic developments in East Timor politics. That is, by contributing to open and educated debate about issues such as policies for East Timor, one is creating the right environment for democracy. This is so because if time and space are provided to the general populace, with effective contribution from those who are experts - Timorese and friends - on specific fields, there will be a progressive open attitude towards policy development for the future of East Timor as an independent country. Otherwise, policies made-on-the-run will be predominant and unwarranted disagreements will emerge.

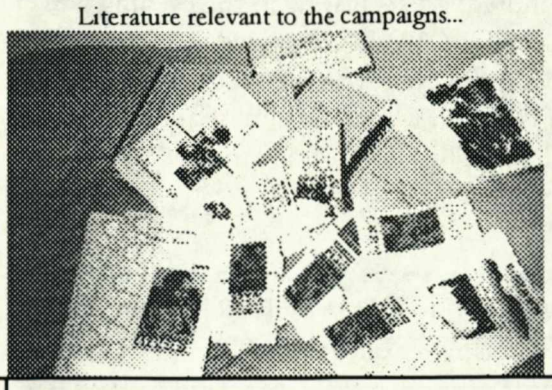
Further policy development will be an effective lobbying tool to world governments and organisations, demonstrating that the people of East Timor are prepared to be in charge of their country.

After Adelaide, Agio Pereira went to Perth, WA, where he not only provided the necessary information to activists working within the framework of Friends of East Timor (FOET) but also gave media interviews, discussed humanitarian support for East Timor, met with community members, including the president of the Timorese Association in WA.

L-R: Graham and Justin of FOET, Julio Magalahes president of Timorese Association in WA, Agio Pereira and Fernando, activist of CNRM in WA

Whenever an activist departs to campaign, there are key people 'behind the scenes' who are crucial for the success of this campaign. These people often are not visible in the photographs but they are important in terms of their contribution to a range of critically important activitites. These include preapring infomration material which include Matebian News and a number of publications which are useful for each particular campaign. In the Main Office of ETRA in Parramatta/NSW Sombo dos Santos, Filipe da Silva, Duarte Martins, Solange Pereira, Natalina Horta and Dolly Riberio and many others are very important people.

Literature relevant to the campaigns...



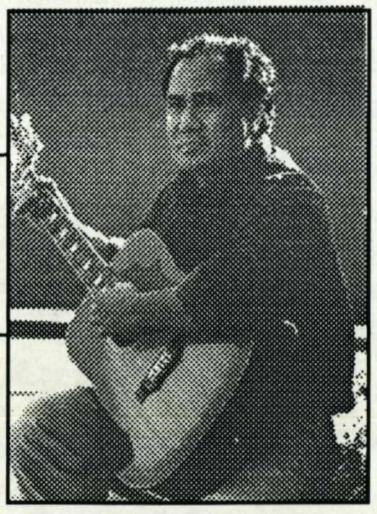
Sombo dos Santos and Filipe da Silva have been members of the back up team

Ines Almeida with key members of Korean East Timor Solidarity Group

Ines Almeida with friends of East Timor and other conference particpants. They visit the Cemetery for People's Struggle in Kwangju

Artists for East Timor: a successful event for East Timor in Dunedin, Aotearoa/New Zealand...

Towards the end of the year, there were two major campaigns. One took place in Aotearoa/ New Zealand, another was in Canada. In Aotearoa/New Zealand, CORSO and 'Running on Empty" were the main organising groups. The idea was to fundraise for East Timor work which ETRA is undertaking in Australia.



Agio Pereira took part in the concert and was also guest speaker

The strategy was to invite a number of artists in Aotearoa/New Zealand to take part in a concert where the entrance is paid. Agio Pereira attended as both a Timorese artist and a speaker for East Timor. Other Timorese were also present but they can not be identified because they were to return to East Timor.

The fundraising event was also part of the program to mark the courage and determination of the Timorese who marched in the procession of November 12 1991, specially those who were killed for their courage. The musical event was very well attended. There were about 100 (one hundred) artists playing in the evening which started at 6:30 pm and ended at 2:30 am. This successful event was followed by another event in Dunedin where the film of John Pilger "East Timor: The Death of a Nation" was screened for public view.

Both events were very successful. It certainly boosted the chances of ETRA to have some administrative budget in 1998.

Campaign in Canada: 'Team Timor'

Opening session of 'Suharto's trial in Ottowa, Canada. The Timorese 'plaintiffs' make their statements

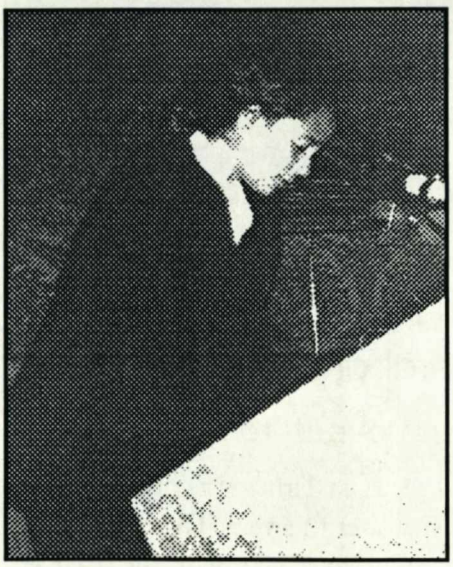
In Canada the big event to close the year of 1997 was the trial of Suharto. There were 13 activists taking part in the campaign. Eleven were Timorese and two Indonesians. The campaign was inspired and coordinated by ETAN/ Canada. The two key people with whom ETRA dealt for this campaign were Bela Galhos and Kerry Pither.

The aim of the campaign was to highlight the crimes committed by Indonesian government and its troops in East Timor over the last 22 years. So the theme was "Voices of East Timor: Suharto on Trial".

It started on the 16th of October and ended in Vancouver on the 9th of December, after the APEC meeting. Towards the end, Jose Ramos-Horta and many other activists joined "The Team Timor" in Vancouver.

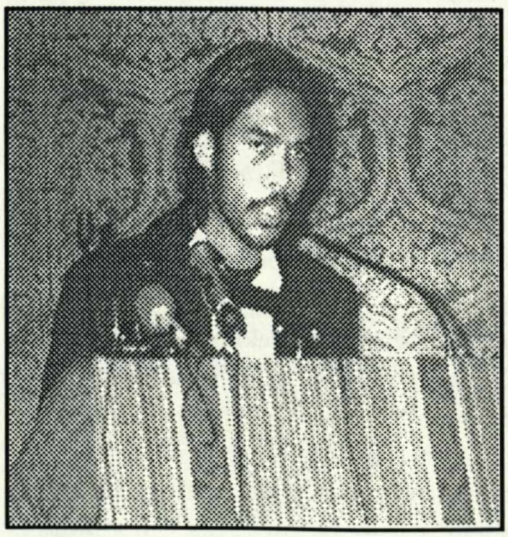
The campaign included a public trial of Suharto, public talks at various places in Canada and the protests in Vancouver to mark the people's disagreement with the policies embraced by the APEC group. A comprehensive report was produced. It can be obtained through the office of ETAN in Canada.

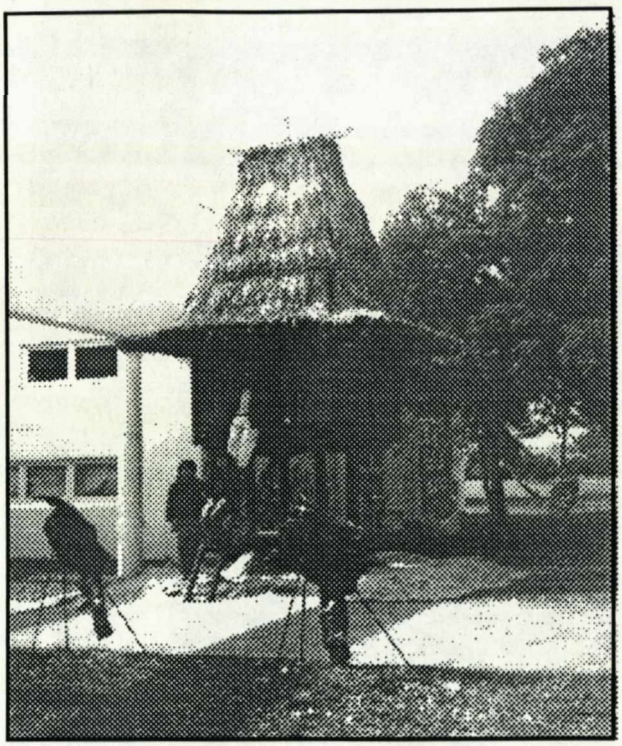
ETRA organised three activists - Ceu Brites, Ines Almeida and Doli Ribeiro - to attend this campaign and be part of the 'Team Timor' in Canada.



Doli Ribeiro was one of the three members of 'Team Timor' from Sydney

Tomas Gandara, one of the key members of 'Team Timor'. He spoke about his experience as a displaced child forcibly taken to Jakarta and hidden from his Timor ancestors





Culture

Tuba Rai Metin', the Timor house project was taken to Canberra and made it possible for the public to appreciate the traditional architecture of the Timorese people. 'Tuba Rai Metin', as reported also in the Annual Report of 1996, is a project of East Timor Cultural Centre, Albie Viegas, Veronica Maia and Antonio Caeiro.

ETRA provided the support for this event. The singing group 'Hananu Kore A'an" went to Canberra to sing.

'Hananu Kore A'an' performed with several artists for East Timor

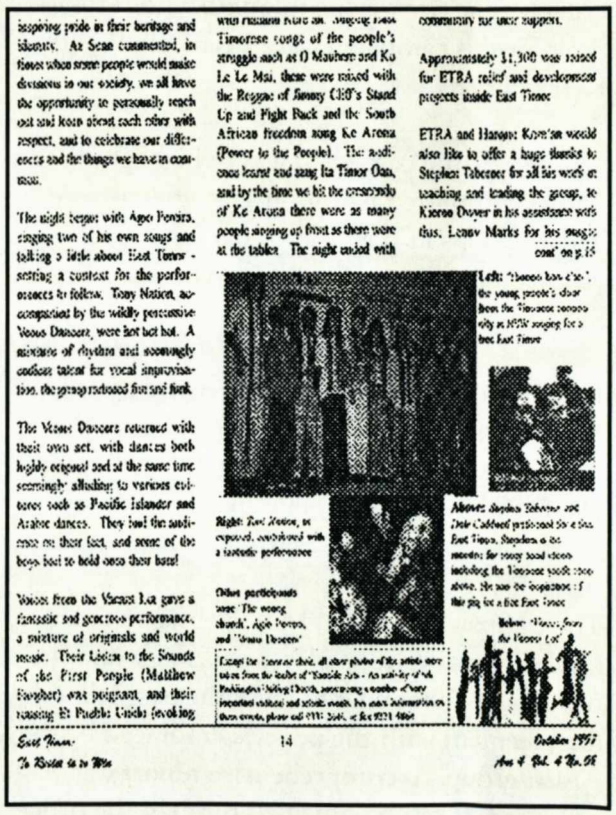
A fundraisng event for ETRA's work...

Singing for a Free East Timor was present in Newtown, in October this year. The event was a fundraising evening for ETRA with the participation of many musical groups, including the Naroo Dance Co., a famous Aboriginal dance group, "The wrong church", Toni Nation, 'Voices from the Vacant Lot" and Dale Caldwell and Stephen Taberner who is the maestro of the Timorese choir.

As expected, the event was very successful in bringing together a range of artists and a hall filled with a good audience to show solidarity with the struggle of East Timor.

Culture: Tetun School Conference

A unique conference was held in Darwin, in August 1997. It was about the Tetun language. The Darwin Tetun School project was the organiser of this conference, Financial support was received from the Northern Territory Government and the Japanese Darwin Tetun School Committee. Agio Pereira was invited to participate. It was a positive experience.



inspiring pride in their heritage and identity. As Sean commented, in times when some people would make decisions in our society, we all have the opportunity to personally reach out and learn about each other with respect, and to celebrate our differences and the things we have in common.

The night began with Agio Pereira, singing two of his own songs and talking a little about East Timor - setting a context for the performances to follow. Tony Nation, accompanied by the wildly percussive Voous Dancers, were hot hot hot. A mixture of rhythm and seemingly endless talent for vocal improvisation, the group rocksteadied fun and funk.

The Voous Dancers returned with their own set, with dances both highly original and at the same time seemingly alluding to various cultures such as Pacific Islander and Arabic dances. They had the audience on their feet, and some of the boys had to hold onto their hats!

Voices from the Vacant Lot gave a fantastic and generous performance, a mixture of originals and world music. Their Ukelin to the Sounds of the First People (Matthew Faugher) was poignant, and their rousing El Pueblo Unido (evoking

with massive audience participation. Singing East Timorese songs of the people's struggle such as O Maubere and Ke Le Le Moi, these were mixed with the Reggae of Jimmy Cliff's Stand Up and Fight Back and the South African freedom song Ke Arena (Power to the People). The audience learnt and sang Ita Timor Oan, and by the time we hit the crescendo of Ke Arena there were as many people singing up front as there were at the tables. The night ended with

community for their support.

Approximately $1,300 was raised for ETRA relief and development projects inside East Timor.

ETRA and Hanano Kore'an would also like to offer a huge thanks to Stephen Taberner for all his work in teaching and leading the group, to Kieron Dwyer in his assistance with this, Lenny Marks for his magic

cont' on p.15

Left: "Hanano Kore A'an", the young people's choir from the Timorese community in NSW singing for a free East Timor

Right: Rod Moore, as expected, enthralled with a fantastic performance

Above: Stephen Taberner and Dale Caldwell performed for a free East Timor. Stephen is the maestro for many local choirs including the Timorese youth choir above. He was the inspiration of this gig for a free East Timor

Below: "Voices from the Vacant Lot"

Other participants were "The wrong church", Agio Pereira, and "Voous Dancers"

[Large Timorese choir, all other photos of the artists were taken from the leaflet of "Tuesday Arts - An anthology of Arts Performers Selling Death, containing a number of very interesting statistic and artistic events. For more information on these events, please call [illegible]]

East Timor
To Know is to Win

14

October 1997
Ano 4 Bol. 4 No. 38

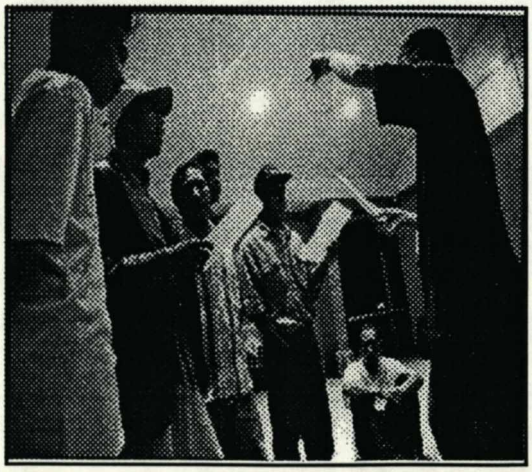
Below: Carlos Soares, the president of Darwin Tetun School with other pariticipants

Youth Project: Hananu Kore A'an

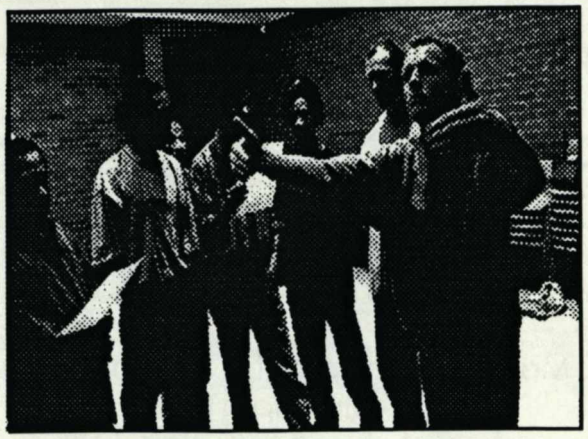
Hananu Kore A'an is the name of the singing project initiated by ETRA in 1997, with the aim of supporting East Timorese youth in western Sydney. Co-ordinated by Ceu Brites, Duarte Martins and Kieran Dwyer, and with musical leadership by Stephen Taberner, the group has gone from strength to strength since early rehearsals in March.

Over 30 young people have participated in the group, many current asylum seekers, and they have performed at community gatherings, cultural occasions, solidarity gigs and finished the year with tremendous performances before large audiences in Sydney (at a public lecture by Nobel Peace Laureate Jose Ramos Horta) and Melbourne (at the ETRA Annual Dinner and at a celebrity line-up to support the campaign for asylum seekers). The group sang proudly and beautifully.

In early '98, Hananu Kore A'an will record a tape for local, national and international distribution.



Hananu Kore A'an



Hananu Kore A'an - practising in Cabramatta Community Centre

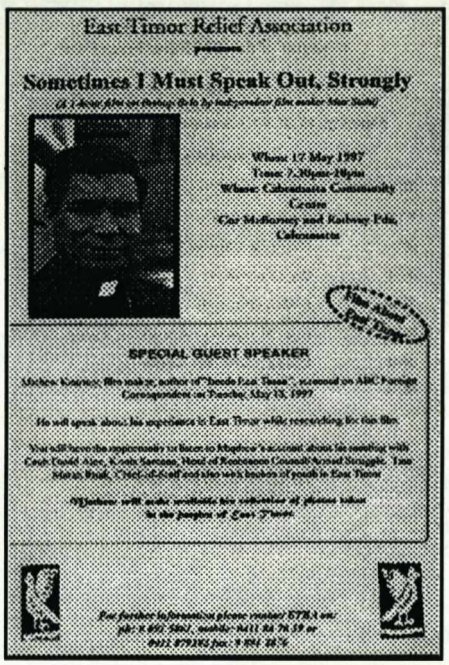
Information production and dissemination: ETRA media projects

ETRA has pursued a multi media approach to its information production and dissemination in 1997. This has integrated the monthly Matebian News newsletter; weekly community radio program (Radio Timoroan, in Tetum, in Sydney); the launch and development of the ETRA Website (special thanks to Pierre and Rocio); participating in the East Timor internet newsgroup Reg.East Timor; production of campaign materials such as the *East Timor Waiting for Peace Cards,* sending a message to the new UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan (this campaign was successfully expanded by Corso in Aotearo-New Zealand); and the distribution of ETRA publications such as Jose Ramos Horta's Towards a Peaceful Solution for East Timor.

'Waiting for Peace Cards' sent to the Secretary-General of UN, Kofi Annan urging Timorese participation in the ongoing talks under the auspices of the UN. CORSO/ Aotearoa/NZ heldped to upgrade this campaign

This has involved major workload from ETRA's volunteers. A feature of this expanded work is the way work from each medium complements and flows into the productions from other media. Matebian News is now being simultaneously produced on internet; interviews on Radio Timoroan are transcribed and published in Matebian News. These will continue to be major areas of development for ETRA's work.

May 17 - Cabramatta Community Film Night


East Timor Relief Association

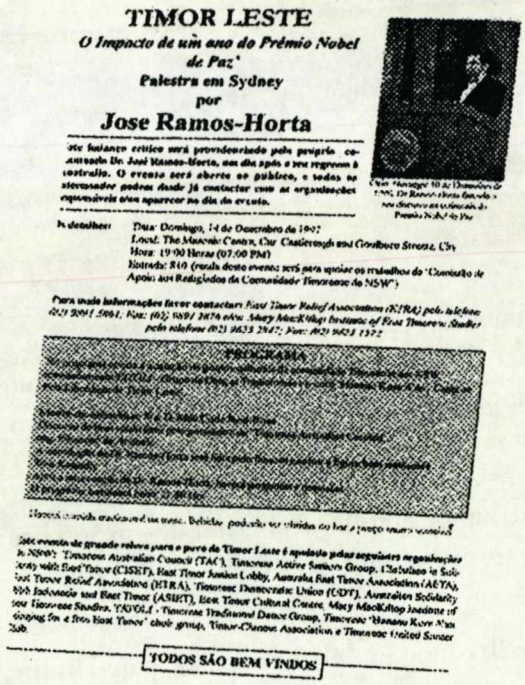
Sometimes I Must Speak Out, Strongly

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

ETRA organised a community film night, showing Max Stahl's film on Bishop Belo "Sometimes I Must Speak Out, Strongly" and featuring Special Guest Speaker Matthew Kearney who produced "Sinside East Timor", a significant report from East Timor screened on ABC Television's Foreign Correspondent earlier in May (and rescreened on the night). The event was well attended by the local community.

December 14 - Jose Ramos Horta Public Lecture

Nobel Peace Laureate Jose Ramos Horta made a major public lecture in Sydney on 14 December. This event received key organisational support from ETRA, in conjunction with all major Sydney Timorese and Solidarity organisations. Introduced by Australian Novelist and noted


TIMOR LESTE

O Impacto de um ano do Prémio Nobel de Paz

Palestra em Sydney

por

Jose Ramos-Horta

TODOS SÃO BEM VINDOS

Republican Thomas Kenneally, Jose Ramos Horta spoke passionately to an audience of 400 gathered at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

ETRA Annual Dinner

On 20 December over 500 people gathered to celebrate ETRA's Annual Dinner, held at Fitzroy Town Hall, Melbourne. The ETRA organising committee, in conjunction with tremendous support from the Melbourne Timorese community and Solidarity workers, put on a wonderful night. Hanau Kore A'an sang with pride and strength, and Jose Ramos Horta gave a speech full of personal reflection and up to date analysis to packed audience. He also launched the Michele Turner Writing Awards and the Denis Freney Solidarity Activist Award, together with the ETRA initiative Preparing for Self Government. A full three course dinner was served, and the4 night provided a great opportunity for ETRA members and supporters to get together to enjoy each others' company and reflect on the year's major events. Thank you and congratulations to all the Melbourne team.

> Michele Turner Writing Awards and the Denis Freney Solidarity Activist Award lanched by Jose Ramos-Horta

Projects in East Timor - ongoing process

Projects in East Timor

The projects in East Timor outlined in the previous Annual Report continued to be implemented as planned. Only SADEP did not require further funding due to the capacity to mobilise support from direct sources. This as a strategy encouraged by ETRA because ETRA is not a funding body per se. The support provided to NGOs in East Timor - if any - is done on a temporary basis only. After the initial phase is completed, ETRA requests the funding bodies to visit East Timor so that appropriate evaluation can be made about the developments of the projects they have provided funding for. The feedback received from these international NGOs also helps ETRA to assess the reality on the ground and to adjust accordingly.

Some key projects in East Timor this year were:

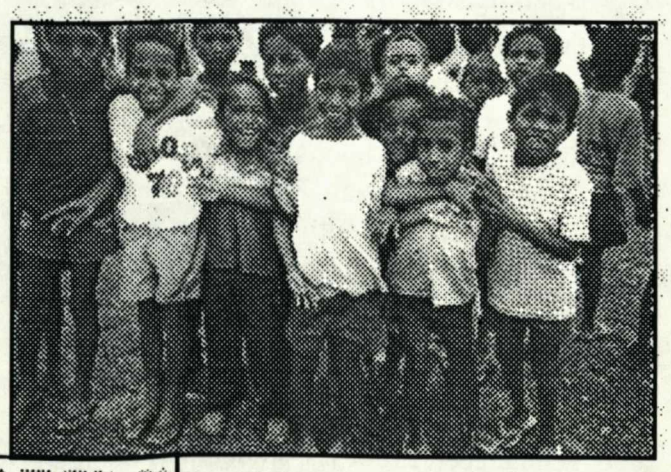
- Timor Aid for Childre
- Timor Woman - *Feto Timor* project
- Orphans in East Timor
- The Street Kids project
- Occasional support for specific individuals in East Timor and in Indonesia

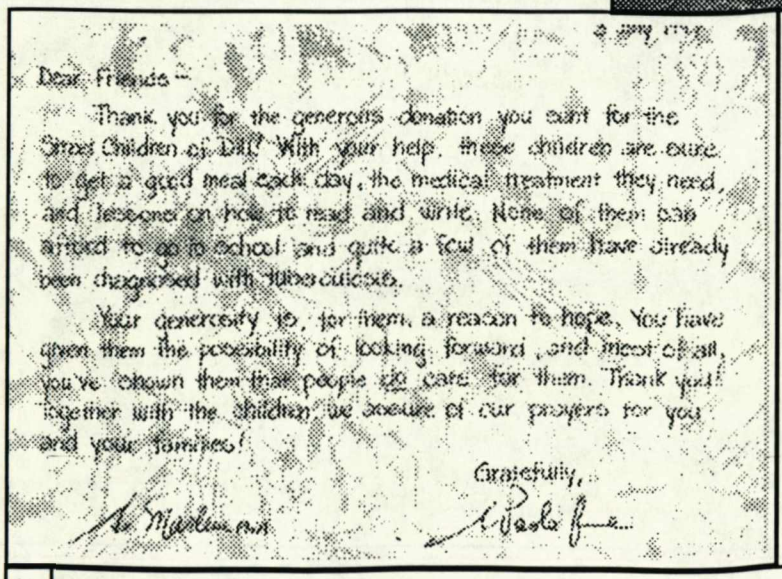
Reports on these projects are available for consultation from the office of ETRA.

In 1998, ETRA will focus in making appeals for 'Timor Aid for Children' and the orphans in East Timor.

It is likely that new projects will be received from East Timor so there will be a need to enhance the capacity of ETRA to liaise for funding forwards these projects.

One main focus will be internship with focus on skills development and English language. ETRA will will deal with some key unions to put together a training program. However, due to the nature of these programs and taking into account the issues of safety of potential participants, these projects will be undertaken in a confidential manner.





Dear Friends –

Thank you for the generous donation you sent for the Street Children of Dili. With your help, these children are sure to get a good meal each day, the medical treatment they need, and lessons on how to read and write. None of them can afford to go to school and quite a few of them have already been diagnosed with tuberculosis.

Your generosity is, for them, a reason to hope. You have given them the possibility of looking forward, and most of all, you've shown them that people do care for them. Thank you! Together with the children, we assure of our prayers for you and your families!

Gratefully,

Finance

EAST TIMOR RELIEF ASSOCIATION INC.
NEW SOUTH WALES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1997

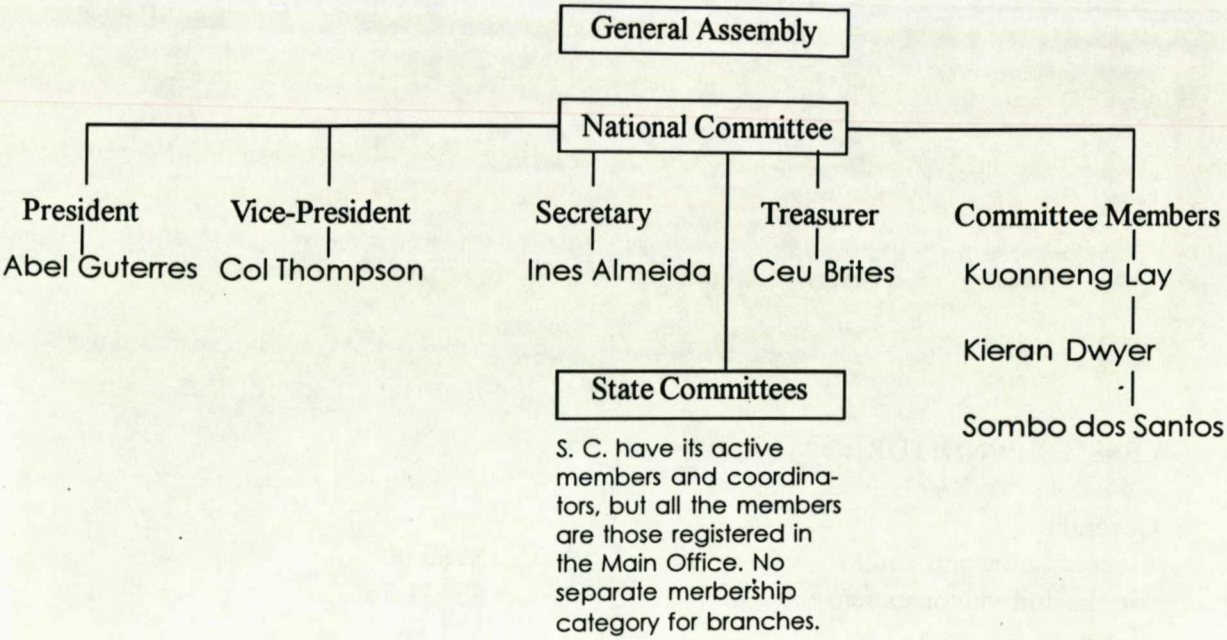
CAS AT BANK, 1 JANUARY 1997		$31949.67
INCOME:		
General		
-Donations	$8981.95	
-Dinner income	$425.00	
-Benefit events	$3317.95	
-Funds received for Timor Aid children	$2515.65	
-Funds received for medicines	$1631.55	
-Membership & joinnig fee	$2053.00	
-Sale of material, books, t-shirts and CD's	$6665.00	
-Funds received: New Zealand(campaign cards)	$495.00	
-Funds received: South Korea	$1195.00	
-Funds received: Fiji(refund-airfare)	$760.00	
-Funds received: Thailand(refund-airfare)	$656.00	
-Funds receive:Australia(refund-airfare)	$564.00	
-Funds received: Aust. Council for the Arts	$6000.00	
-Funds received: Portuguese government	$2968.00	
-Funds received for ET students in Indonesia	$1500.00	
-Interest received	$9.73	
-Sundry Income	$526.00	
Total receipts	$40263.83	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**$72213.35**

Finance

LESS EXPENDITURE

General		
-Accountancy and audit	$980.00	
-Books and videos expense	$3951.76	
-Cleaning expenses	$71.50	
-Scanner & modem	$550.00	
-Executive Director allowance	$2000.00	
-Music director fees	$2200.00	
-Petty cash expenses	$642.55	
-Postage	$883.45	
-Printing & stationery	$2854.84	
-Project funding	$9084.23	
-Recyling expenses	$80.00	
-Telephone expenses	$1415.90	
-Repairs and maintenance	$914.62	
-Room hire	$485.00	
-Transport expenses	$6365.00	
-Electricity & water rate	$493.85	
-Strata levy	$970.75	
-Editor	$500.00	
-Australia Post (box)	$88.00	
Total general expenses		**$33534.45**
CASH AT BANK 31ST DECEMBER, 1997		**$38678.90**

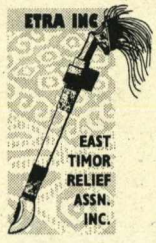
Organisational Structure



ETRA was formed in 1991 but only formally registered in March 1992.

Each year, at the Annual General Meeting, the financial members elect a National Committee to work for the new year.

For details of the Organisational Structure prior to 1996, please see the Annual Report of 1995



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